

# Nation



## imagineNATIVE film fest

Northern Developments

---

Broken Promises

---

Standing Rock Update

---

**\$2.50**

Free in Iyiyuuschii

Serving Iyiyuuschii since 1993

Canada Post Publication No. 40015005



# IS YOUR STAFF ON THE NICE LIST? CUSTOM GIFTS ON SALE NOW!

Show your appreciation with corporate gifts customized with your logo!



514-272-3077 | [promo@beesum.com](mailto:promo@beesum.com) | [beesum.com](http://beesum.com)



# CONTENTS



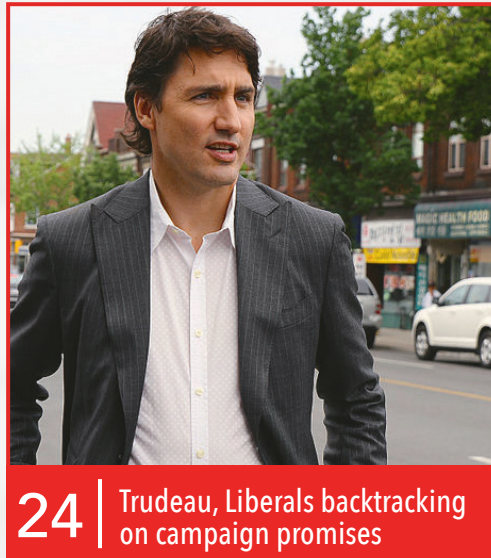
**5** | VR coming to Cree Nation



**10** | imagineNATIVE film festival celebrates Indigenous work



**18** | Support pours in for Standing Rock



**24** | Trudeau, Liberals backtracking on campaign promises



**28** | Stornoway opens Renard diamond mine, Wabun Tribal council signs IBA with Tahoe

## EDITORIAL

The pen is a dangerous tool 4

## NEWS

The virtual cutting edge 5

Backlash in Val-d'Or 7

## IN BRIEF

9

## FEATURES

Imagi-nation 10

Standing Rock update 18

Walking two roads 20

Broken promises 24

Northern developments 28

## REZ NOTES

Woodwalker 33

## UTNS

First Nation

Renaissance 34



*Cover*  
Jason Ryle, Artistic Director of the  
imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival  
Photo provided by  
imagineNATIVE

Send us your **cellphone number** to be included  
for **FREE** in the James Bay Cree Telephone Book.



514-272-3077 | info@beesum.com | www.beesum.com



# The pen is a **dangerous tool**

by Will Nicholls



I write this editorial on November 2, the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. In our efforts to bring the news, the truth and understanding of issues and events to readers a price is paid and it is one that most people never know about. One journalist started a campaign to expose the atrocities against people in Syria. He was sent two photos that included one of his colleagues with no head.

In 2015, 115 journalists were killed trying to do their job. In the last 10 years over 800 have been killed. Less than one death in 10 has resulted in a conviction.

According to Courtney Radsch, Advocacy Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, "Murder is the ultimate form of censorship and it is enabled by a lack of justice."

Catherine Boura, the Greek Ambassador to the United Nations, had a sobering reminder for the occasion. "Let's not forget that every

case of a journalist or media worker harassed, injured, arbitrarily detained or killed is an assault to freedom of expression and a threat to the foundations of open and democratic society," she said.

At the confrontation in Standing Rock, renowned journalist Amy Goodman was charged with participating in a riot while reporting on the situation there though the charges were later dropped. In defending the charges, North Dakota prosecutors said they did not consider her a journalist – despite her many years of international recognition of her work – because they didn't think she told both the sides of the issue. Allowing a government body to determine what is news strikes at the very heart of freedom of speech. A perceived bias does not mean it is not valid.

During the Harper years, Canadian journalists were shut down and denied even basic information by his Conservative government. Press conferences

were photo ops only. Harper recognized the pen is a dangerous tool for those who would circumvent democracy. Sadly, Justin Trudeau has continued these practices as prime minister.

In Quebec, a growing scandal over police surveillance of journalists has shocked the provincial media. Montreal police used hundreds of court orders to spy on reporters from *le Journal de Montréal* and *La Presse*. Then the *Surêté du Québec* confirmed that the provincial police force spied on six journalists in 2013 as part of a police investigation. Three Radio-Canada journalists said they found out November 2, via unnamed sources, that the SQ was tracking their portable phones.

In Canada and elsewhere the intimidation and actions against journalists show the concerns of the UN are not something to be ignored. It seems the pen is dangerous no matter if it is in your hands or not.

## The virtual cutting edge

### Using VR to strengthen the Cree language

by Jesse Staniforth

The Cree School Board (CSB) will be offering the most cutting-edge language-teaching technology in Quebec, if not the whole country, when three pilot projects begin in Chisasibi, Nemaska and Oujé-Bougoumou this month.

The Cree Syllabics Virtual Reality (CSVR) project, called *Niwîchewâka* (or *Niwîchâwâkan*, depending on dialect) is the first attempt to use virtual reality (VR) to teach First Nations languages. Over the game's 20 modules, elementary-school students will use *Niwîchewâka* to enter into a land-based world where they follow Niipiish, a Cree girl, and her English-speaking dog Achimush, helping them complete word and spelling activities.

"I wanted it to look like they're at their camp," said CSB Deputy Director General (Pedagogical) Serge Béliveau. "You play with a bow and arrow to shoot at the words, and pick up a stick to trace over the syllabics. The syllabics mainly validate and solidify the learning they've done with their teacher. The students learn the language that's already integrated in the curriculum. They play with the language and the syllabics to create the words, and they're guided through the story over those 20 episodes by the two main characters,

who are asking them certain questions."

The Cree language is strong across Eeyou Istchee, but the CSB was not certain it was strong enough. Looking to determine the level of Cree fluency, the CSB set up a study of their students' language ability – and discovered that most students weren't as fluent as they hoped.

"We found that we were starting to lose the Cree language," said CSB Director General Abraham Jolly. "When the kids were coming into our school system, their Cree was not what you'd characterize as mother-tongue Cree. There were bits and pieces of Cree and English mixed together. In the school setting, we're trying to solidify teaching Cree correctly, whether it's grammatical, or syllabics. We're trying to strengthen the Cree language through our school system."

In seeking to fortify students' language skills, said Jolly, the CSB was open to technological approaches from the beginning.

"Our kids are very much engaged with technology," he said. "At the same time, you want them to learn their language and maybe find the means to do that more effectively, where they'd be engaged with it. The best learning is when kids don't even know

they're learning, because they're having so much fun."

That was what brought Serge Béliveau to the offices of Minority Media to meet with Ernie Webb, who was already working on video games as a teaching tool to protect and expand traditional languages. Initially, Béliveau imagined they would work on engaging students through something like game-building to see the different parts of their curriculum from a new perspective. However, Webb showed Béliveau a project that featured a 360-degree virtual reality environment.

"It was in a Mongolian teepee," Béliveau recalls. "I was extremely impressed with what I saw, and I already saw the potential to use virtual reality for a Cree culture immersion, a learning environment that would be very traditional, and help them deepen their understanding of their language through something fun."

The seeds of *Niwîchewâka* were sown and on November 2, the game was officially launched at a press conference in Montreal. Schools in Chisasibi, Nemaska and Oujé-Bougoumou each received the Vive VR systems that the game runs on.

"It's the higher-end technology on the market – top of the line," says



## Give the gift of appreciation

### CUSTOM CHRISTMAS CARDS **ORDER NOW!**



514-272-3077 | info@beesum.com | www.beesum.com



*the Nation* is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications. **EDITORIAL BOARD** L. Stewart, W. Nicholls, M. Siberok, Mr. N. Diamond, E. Webb **EDITOR IN CHIEF** Will Nicholls **DIRECTOR OF FINANCES** Linda Ludwick **EDITORS** Lyle Stewart, Martin Siberok, Amy German **PRODUCTION AND SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR** Joshua Grant **CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** W. Nicholls, X. Kataquapit, S. Orr, D. Isaac, J. Grant, J. Staniforth, N. Irwin, P. Wheeland **DESIGN** Matthew Dessner **SALES AND ADVERTISING** Danielle Valade, Wendall Gull **THANKS TO: Air Creebec**

**CONTACT US:** The Nation, 4529 CLARK, #403, Montreal, QC, H2T 2T3 **EDITORIAL & ADS:** Tel.: 514-272-3077, Fax: 514-278-9914 **HEAD OFFICE:** P.O. Box 151, Chisasibi, QC. J0M 1E0 [www.nationnews.ca](http://www.nationnews.ca) **EDITORIAL:** nation@nationnews.ca news@nationnews.ca **ADS:** Danielle Valade: ads@nationnews.ca Wendall Gull: wendall@nationnews.ca Viola-Rose Day: viola@nationnews.ca **SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$60 plus taxes, US: \$90, Abroad: \$110, Payable to beesum communications, all rights reserved, publication mail #40015005, issn #1206-2642 **The Nation is a member of:** The James Bay Cree Communications Society, Circle Of Aboriginal Controlled Publishers, Magazines Canada Quebec Community Newspaper Assn. Canadian Newspapers Assn. Les Hebdomadaires Du Québec.







Ernie Webb (middle) speaks at a press conference following a demo of the new VR project

Béliveau. “Hopefully we’ll get to a point where people will be able to use it at home.”

Each of the game’s 20 modules consists of only five minutes of game-play, to prevent students from becoming dizzy or disoriented.

“We’re training the teachers and we had an information session in each of the communities for the parents,” Béliveau explained. “We wanted everybody to try it, so they would be able to better understand what their children were doing.”

However, Jolly underlined that the game will be only one component of the CSB’s approach to teaching the Cree language.

“This brings it into the context of where they are, in the classroom, but it allows them to visualize through the virtual reality that they’re out on the land,” Jolly said. “Even for adults, it’s engaging to find yourself in this virtual reality. Now, if they were to go into the bush setting and learn things, the virtual reality maybe gives them some sense about it, but the bush isn’t virtual – it’s reality-reality!”

That’s the bottom line, Jolly said. Like Cree culture and traditions, the Cree language is based in the land, and it will always be experienced there more than anywhere else.

Left: Emily Ruperthouse Wylde, mother of the missing Sindy Ruperthouse;  
Right: Radio-Canada journalist Josée Dupuis



## Backlash

by Joshua Grant

Photos provided by Radio-Canada

One year after Radio-Canada’s *Enquête* program brought to light startling allegations of sexual assault and abuse suffered by Native women at the hands of Sûreté du Québec (SQ) officers in Val-d’Or and the surrounding area, 41 police officers at the detachment have launched a lawsuit against the network.

Funded by the officers’ union, the Association des policiers provinciaux du Québec (APPQ), the suit filed on October 19 seeks \$2.3 million in damages and claims that Radio-Canada defamed the officers’ reputation and created a hostile work environment. It says that Radio-Canada presented the stories of the First Nations women who came forward as proof of a recurring problem and questions the truthfulness of the women’s claims as well as their motives behind coming forward.

The litigation also attacks Radio-Canada’s journalistic integrity, staying that the story was biased, misleading, incomplete and deceitful. The officers accuse journalist Josée Dupuis of not corroborating the allegations with reliable sources.

In a press release following the announcement, Radio-Canada rejected all accusations and described their approach to the *Enquête* report as irreproachable. They also pointed out that not once has the SQ officially denied

the allegations brought forward by the weekly television newsmagazine series

“The report [“Abus de la SQ: Les femmes brisent le silence”] was created in accordance with the rulebook in every respect, its production and broadcast sit at the heart of Radio-Canada’s mandate, which we will prove in court.”

Cree Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark said the suit threatens fundamental rights. “It’s my hope that Radio-Canada and its journalists stands their ground on these issues in the fight for freedom of speech,” he said. “Any attack on journalism is an attack on our democratic society. Otherwise who will speak for the marginalized?”

According to reports from Val-d’Or, the city’s SQ detachment has also launched a bracelet campaign. The bracelets feature eight stars representing the police officers who were suspended following *Enquête*’s report.

Representatives of the local First Nations community declined to comment, awaiting the results of the ongoing investigation by the Montreal police service. Anishnabeg leaders from Lac-Simon Kitcisakik and Pikogan publicly condemned the long investigation as well as the APPQ lawsuit, calling it “heinous.”

Of the eight police officers originally suspended, two have been cleared of

all suspicions while six are still under investigation and on administrative leave.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come said the lawsuit amounts to intimidation by the police.

“On the surface, it appears suspiciously as though the Val-d’Or SQ and the association that represents it is attempting to intimidate both the journalists who uncovered the serious allegations of assault and sexual abuse of Indigenous women in the Val-d’Or area as well as anyone who might dare to come forward with allegations of abuse at the hands of local law enforcement authorities. I would be concerned that a message is being sent that there could be retaliation for coming forward,” Coon said.

“The recent revelations of unauthorized access of the cell-phones of prominent Quebec journalists could be related to this issue as well. However, there are currently specific court actions in progress and there are currently investigations into the original allegations stemming from the *Enquête* program. We look forward to the results of this investigation and we will carefully review its report. We will have much more to say when these two processes have reached conclusions.”



**Distributor of petroleum products and lubricants in the James Bay Territory.**

### Addresses:

**Radisson Bulk Plant**  
Tel.: (819) 638-8222  
Fax: (819) 638-7107

**La Grande Rivière Airport**  
Tel.: 819-638-9104  
Fax: 819-354-6825

### EM-1

**Construction Site**  
Tel.: (819) 865-2045  
Fax: (819) 865-2039  
Cell.: (819) 856-0618

**Chisasibi Gas Station**  
Tel.: (819) 855-2427  
Fax: (819) 855-3462

**Administration office**  
Tel.: (819) 824-5505  
Fax: (819) 824-5420

### Services:

- Delivery of petroleum products in bulk
- Aviation fuel
- Rental of movable tanks

### Products:

- Unleaded gas, clear and colored diesel, stove oil, Jet-A, 100LL and lubricants.

**0% ON 84 MONTHS FINANCING OCA\***  
\*Details available in store. Promotion ends November 30, 2016



819-874-1138  
megacentrekubota.com  
1885, 3<sup>e</sup> Avenue, Val-d’Or Qc

## Regional Radio Show on Housing

from the Capital Works and Services Department / Housing and ownership in the Cree Nation

**Wednesday November 16, 2016 from 12:15 to 12:45**



**Your host:**  
**Lawrence P. Katapatuk**  
**Regional Housing Planner**

**LIVE from**  
**Mistissini**

**Join us on JBCCS**  
**(James Bay Cree Communications Society)**  
**every third Wednesday of every month**

**We need community members’ input, suggestions**  
**and comments concerning housing in the Cree Nation.**







**Come see us!**

We are **YOUR snow tires specialists!**

PNEUS GBM VAL-D'OR 819-825-7633  
PNEUS GBM AMOS 819-732-5207  
PNEUS GBM CHIBOUGAMAU 418-748-2645  
PNEUS GBM MATAGAMI 819-739-4343



James Bay Telephone Book 2017

**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Special Vintage Pricing**

Ad space starting  
**as low as \$799**  
for the Whole Year!

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Danielle Valade** (Sales Representative)  
Tel: (514) 272-3077  
ads@nationnews.ca  
www.beesum.com

**Thank you to our heroes**

This is to express our gratitude and appreciation for the search and rescue of our loved ones: Robert Jimikin Senior, Urion Jimikin, 13, Fabio Mianscum, 11, and Kobe Gunner, 12.

The hunters went off on a hunting excursion by boat on October 12, but did not return that day, due to motor problems. The following day, the wife of Mr. Jimikin called by satellite phone and reported them missing.

A quick response followed by Richard Shecapio (Mistissini Chief), Officers Stanley Neeposh and Robie Petawabano (EPPF Mistissini Detachment), Lieutenant Bradley Mianscum (EPPF Nemaska Detachment, Search and Rescue, Mistissini and Nemaska), Philip Petawabano (Waaseskun Airways), Ashley Iserhoff (Director of Social Development), Paul Matoush (Fire Chief) and Donald Nicholls (Director of Cree Justice).

We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your quick response in the finding and rescue of our hunters on October 13 at approximately 3pm. They suffered minor hypothermia and hunger but they are doing well and are safe at home.

You are all heroes in our books.

Thank you all for your prayers and support during this ordeal.

Sincerely,  
Rachel B. MacLeod, mother of Kobe Gunner  
Laurie Brien, mother of Urion Jimikin  
Celina Jimikin, mother of Fabio Mianscum  
and daughter of Robert Jimikin Senior



**Honouring our sisters**

The Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association honoured the winners of the 4th annual Outstanding Eeyou/Eenou Women Awards at Hotel Forestel in Val-d'Or October 22. Among those recognized were Sally Paula Petawabano Mattawashish (Women Volunteer), Betsy Longchap (Women in Arts and Culture), Janet Mark (Women in Education), E. Virginia Wabano (Women in Public

Service), Cindy Coonishish (Women in Business), Louisa Wynne (Women in Politics) and Priscilla V. Coon Come Mianscum (Women in Health). Lifetime achievement awards were also presented to Edith Matoush (Keeper of the Language) and Florrie Mark-Stewart (Mother of the Cree Language). Congratulations from the Nation and the people of Eeyou Istchee.



**Your consultants:**

**Yvon St-Pierre** / yvonstpierre@barrautechrysler.ca  
**Serge Labrecque** / sergelabrecque@barrautechrysler.ca

**819-825-0880**  
Toll-free: 1-888-250-7081

2016 Dodge  
Ram Rebel 1500

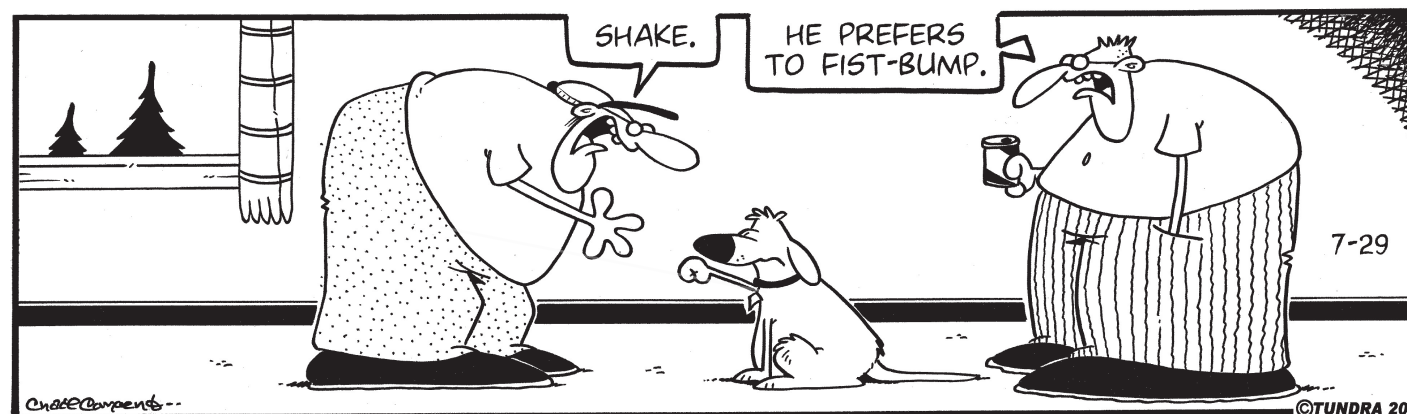


**THIS IS GUTS. THIS IS GLORY. THIS IS RAM.**

215, 3eme Avenue, Val-d'Or, Quebec • www.automobilesbarraute.com



**RAM**







Features

# imagination

by Nigel Irwin

Photos provided by imagineNATIVE

**imagineNATIVE film fest**  
features themes of reconnection

Perhaps there is no better way to absorb a cultural tapestry than through a series of films on a dreary, rain-soaked weekend. Audiences who attended this year's imagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival were given five days (October 19-23) packed with programming centred on Indigenous voices from around the globe.

In addition to the eclectic film screenings, this year's festival boasted a wide range of events including immersive VR and digital media exhibits, an art crawl, music night and a mix of workshops and panels. This 17th year was a triumph, delivering riveting and thought-provoking work from a host of Indigenous filmmakers, both established and emerging.

The festival explored a multitude of themes. One group of short films explored our relationship to the Canadian landscape, another dealt with LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) equality, one spotlighted works from Greenland, and another group of shorts were made simply for experimental reasons. Mixed in with these collections were several stand-alone features and documentaries.

Taken as a collective, imagineNATIVE's screenings were stark reminders of the resilience and beauty of our people, despite our history of colonialism. These are voices connected and determined to share and build a culture together. These are voices united in a quiet desperation to remain intact and strong in the modern world.





## Taapwaauchaayimiisu Believe In Yourself

### OUR PROGRAM

*Taapwaauyimiisu (Believe in yourself)* program is a resource available for the schools in the three Cree communities, where the pilot project is currently being launched. We offer support to the students' ages 12 to 17 years old who, for various reasons, are temporarily suspended from 3 to 5 days from school.

The expression "*Believe in yourself*" is dear to our program as we want to send a strong message of empowerment and self-worth to our youth.

### OUR SERVICE SITES

Taapwaauchaayimiisu program in Mistissini has officially moved in their new service site at the Family Resource Centre (Old Youth Centre). Thank you, Cree Nation of Mistissini, for your collaboration in providing space for our youth.

We would also like to thank everyone that attended our open houses in Waskaganish and Chisasibi.

Should you require more information, please contact the coordinator.

Tel: (819) 527-0407

E-mail: [Byyourself@cngov.ca](mailto:Byyourself@cngov.ca)



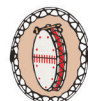
The film *Te Kuhane o Te Tupuna* (The Spirit of the Ancestors) tells the story of Moia Hoa Haka Nana'ia, one of the sacred spirits of the people of Rapa Nui (Easter Island). The spirit was carved into a stone statue, infused with mana, the power essential to the lives and well-being of the Rapa Nui, and today that statue sits in the British Museum in London. The film documents the colonial history on the island and how this cultural touchstone was removed from the island, depriving the people of life force.

The film focuses on a man teaching his granddaughter about the history of her culture. At one point in the film, they travel to London to view the source of their cultural pride. It's disheartening to see this little girl watch historians handle her culture with sterile, rubber gloves. In one scene, director Leonardo Pakarati stands helplessly before the museum-goers and reminds them of the significance of this statue and how it belongs back home on Rapa Nui. Yet, here it sits behind glass. What can be done?



These are **voices connected and determined** to share and build a culture together. These are **voices united in a quiet desperation** to remain intact and strong in the modern world.





**You can apply for a record suspension (pardon) to have your criminal record sealed, which can help you to get a job**

- Were convicted of a criminal offence
- Have completed all the requirements of your sentence and probation
- You have completed the 5 or 10 year waiting period, depending on the nature of the offence

## Need Help on How to Apply?

Chisasibi:	819-855-2120
Eastmain:	819-977-2400
Mistissini:	418-923-2661
Nemaska:	819-673-2400
Ouje-bougoumou:	418-745-2260
Waskaganish:	819-895-2126
Waswanipi:	819-753-2770
Wemindji:	819-978-3300
Whapmagoostui:	819-929-3796

**www.creejustice.ca**

*Colonization Road*, the directorial debut of Michelle St. John, is hosted by comedian Ryan McMahon and focuses on the colonial repercussions of the settler road system in McMahon's hometown of Couchiching First Nation.







# POSITION ▶

## REGIONAL AGREEMENTS IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

Join Stornoway and become part of a great team that is operating a world class diamond mine in Eeyou Istchee, James Bay.

Stornoway is recruiting a Regional Agreements - Implementation Officer. Reporting to the Vice-president, Public Affairs and based in Mistissini (or Chibougamau), the Regional Agreements - Implementation Officer is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the regional agreements in the region and at the workplace. He/She ensures and supports mainly the implementation and development of initiatives with departments, entities and stakeholders related to the Mecheshoo Agreement with the Cree Nation of Mistissini and Crees of Eeyou Istchee. He/She will also contribute to the implementation of the Partnership Agreement with Chibougamau & Chapais. The Regional Agreements - Implementation Officer is responsible for Stornoway's Mistissini office with frequent travel to Renard Mine site. The Regional Agreements Implementation Officer acts as a resource person for various committees and he/she collaborates with the human resources department to promote integration, retention and advancement of Cree employees. The Regional Agreements - Implementation Officer is an important contributor to the implementation of Stornoway's regional communication strategy.

While developing the first diamond mine in Québec, we offer a great and stimulating work environment, good benefits and a competitive salary.

Please send your resume along with a cover letter, before **November 30, 2016** and indicate the reference **SWY-AFF-CR03-163 - Regional Agreements Implementation Officer**



STORNOWAY DIAMOND CORPORATION • [HR@STORNOWAYDIAMONDS.COM](mailto:HR@STORNOWAYDIAMONDS.COM) • FAX: 450-674-2012

[WWW.STORNOWAYDIAMONDS.COM](http://WWW.STORNOWAYDIAMONDS.COM)



“In Canada, when we’re talking about reconciliation, I hope we’re talking about **centring indigenous voices**. There are decades of work that has been done by filmmakers, visual artists, musicians and writers and poets. **There is a ton of work for people to discover.**”



“In Canada, when we’re talking about reconciliation, I hope we’re talking about centring Indigenous voices. There are decades of work that has been done by filmmakers, visual artists, musicians and writers and poets. There is a ton of work for people to discover,” McMahon speaks vehemently.

“I invite people to think about their relationship with the pre-existing work, I invite people to think about the emerging work as well.”

The audience was cheering particular scenes of *Colonization Road* during the screening. Watching these films, many not mentioned in this article, with an audience genuinely interested in Indigenous views, was encouraging.

While the calibre of the films varied, the mere fact that they are being created and watched is worth celebrating. Indigenous cinema has largely been an independent, small-budget affair, resting on the importance of stories and the will of filmmakers to share them. For anyone interested in experiencing what those voices have to offer, imagineNATIVE continues to be an invaluable channel through which to do so.

For the full list of festival winners, visit the imagineNATIVE website.



# As tensions rise, support for **Standing Rock** pours in from across the continent

Story and photos by Dan Isaac & Will Nicholls

## Checking in at **STANDING ROCK**

**T**he events at Standing Rock – from police tactics, to celebrity support, to direct actions – have escalated since two reporters from *the Nation* visited the protest camp last month.

In an October 27 raid on the Oceti Sakowin camp, a convoy of police officers

from seven states marched down Highway 1806 to evict protesters (who prefer the term water protectors in reference to the threat the Dakota Access Pipeline [DAPL] poses to the reservation's water supply). In response, Water Protectors built blockades and used their bodies to slow the car-

avan's progress but were met with a wide variety of "non-lethal" countermeasures.

The Morton County Sheriff's Department claimed the Water Protectors were engaging in violent protest and they had to intervene to prevent a riot. However, the hours of videos that

streamed live and are now circulating on social media paint a very different picture.

The videos show unarmed, peaceful protesters being brutalized by militarized police officers with batons, mace and tasers while arresting 142 people. One, an Elder, was arrested after conducting a prayer

ceremony in full regalia. Democracy Now reported that protestors were held in dog kennels while being booked. While the convoy was able to dismantle the Sacred Ground/frontline camp and make it to the Oceti Sakowin camp, the water protectors there weren't evicted.

Following the police attacks, there has been a wave of support for the water protectors. In Minnesota, a demonstration was held inside Minneapolis city hall calling for the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office to withdraw its officers, and equipment from Standing

Rock. All Minnesota law enforcement officers and equipment have since been withdrawn from the conflict.

In New York City on November 1, hundreds flooded Grand Central Station in solidarity with the protests at Standing Rock. The demonstrators

chanted, "Water is life!" and shut down the station during morning rush hour, then marched to the head offices of JP Morgan Chase financial company and Bank of America. Both of which have a hand in funding the DAPL.

Actor Mark Ruffalo and the Reverend Jesse



Jackson have also visited the camp.

Closer to home, the Mohawks of Kahnawake briefly barricaded Mercier Bridge during evening rush hour in solidarity with Standing Rock, and have also set up a camp under the bridge. “We’re

here to protect the planet and raise awareness of what’s going on,” Blair Dearhouse told the CBC.

Meanwhile, over 1.3 million Facebook users have checked in at Standing Rock – as if they were physically present. The goal of the

check-ins, in addition to showing support, is to confuse authorities, who are said to be monitoring the social media network to keep tabs on protesters – a claim the Sheriff’s Department denies.

In a Facebook update, Dallas Goldtooth, an orga-

nizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network, thanked supporters for the online tactic. “The ‘Checking in’ bit is a great, fun way of keeping folks engaged in the fight. It helps us keep the movement refreshed. It’s not the huge game-changer

you may think it is. Sorry to burst the bubble. But it sure as hell helps us feel the solidarity!”

Goldtooth countered the police denials they are spying on protesters’ communications, however.

“Real talk: We are being watched,” he wrote. “By

plane and helicopter. Our phones are tapped. Our text messages are being seen. Our social media is being mined for data and tracking. Our conversations are being logged by undercover cops. This is all happening.”

And it’s not the only mysterious thing that’s been

happening in and around the camp. In an interview with Democracy Now, Goldtooth addressed a fire that happened near the Oceti Sakowin Camp just days after the police intervention. “It was very, very clear that the brush fire that happened

was an act of arson by unknown individuals.”

Emergency services were blocked from fighting the fire, he added. “Now, their reason for moving on our water protectors was so that they could deliver emergency services, if needed, to the main camp. So, why

Continued on page 23...

# Walking Two Roads

Descendant of Comanche war chiefs helps keep the fight alive

**A**t Standing Rock *the Nation* met with representatives of the Comanche people, who have a tradition of hospitality that rivals the Cree of Eeyou Istchee. Among them was Elaine Parker Gimme Saddle, who is a descendant of Comanche chief Peta Nocona and Cynthia Ann Parker, an English-American, who had been kidnapped as a child and assimilated into the tribe.

Their son, Quanah, was born in 1850. In 1860, the US Army captured Quanah, his mother and a brother, but the brothers later escaped. Quanah would become a renowned warrior – his descendants call him the last war chief of the Comanche.

While at the Oceti Sakowin camp, *the Nation* spoke with Elaine Parker Gimme Saddle and her sons, a family from Lawton, Oklahoma.

**The Nation: You’re a descendant of Quanah Parker?**

Yes, I’m his great-granddaughter. I never met him as he died in 1911.

**TN: Did your parents talk about him? What did they pass on to you?**

Oh yes. He was the first Comanche politician. He had that knack. [US president] Teddy Roosevelt was his friend. Quanah went to DC and I heard all the stories from my dad. Quanah had 24 children and seven wives. And that was before the Mormons.

He was our last war chief in 1883. The Comanche were prisoners of war and had to stay in Fort Sill in north Oklahoma. They had to stay on little reservations. But in 1905, they did away with the reservations when statehood came to Oklahoma.

Quanah saw the transition from the time he was on the warrior trail as a young man to signing the peace treaties. He encouraged our people to become educated. He said we have to walk two roads – the White Man’s road and the Indian road. We have to know both. My dad got that from his dad and it was passed down to our family and to the Comanche people.

**TN: Is this what you have passed down to your own children?**

Oh yes, I have two sons here [at Standing Rock], David and Daniel Cox. They’re 46 and 48 and they are good men. I’m proud of them.

**TN: How did the Comanche end up here at Standing Rock?**

They heard about it and they wanted to show support. Our

tribe has always been unified as tribes go. We’re a small tribe of 14,000 and around 70 of us are here. The first group of us came here around October 18 in a huge tribal Greyhound-type bus with the Comanche code talkers painted on the side. My dad was one of them.

**TN: Your dad was a code talker?**

Yes, in World War II. My dad served and so did my sons. The Comanche men are very patriotic. Dad volunteered before there was a draft. A lot of Comanche people don’t know this. They trained for a whole year with the 4th Signal Corps to make the Comanche language a military language. My dad said they had to make a language within a language. There were no Comanche names for many things. The Comanche word for

turtles was used for tanks, and bomber planes were called pregnant birds.

**TN: Do you believe in what’s happening here in Standing Rock?**

Yes, I do. I’m very proud of my sons. I thought I was too old to travel, to come here, but my sons said “Come on mom”, and I’m glad I came. To me this is a historical moment. I saw my grandparents sign historical documents. I saw my dad proud to be fluent in Comanche and in the English language. In fact, he was planning to major in English, but the war came along. My family has always been pro-education, but know your culture, your language and who you are. Our people pass that on strongly to our children. Understand your traditions, your culture, but understand the world around you.



Elaine Gimme Saddle (left)

**Isn’t this what Aboriginal people always try to do?**

Yes, know your environment and be at home in it. We are still people who roam. In the summers, we go down to Mexico, but Oklahoma is our place. Our encampments were in the mountain ranges in the 1890s before they hauled us in and put us in corrals at Fort Sill. My grandmother spent her first years there. She was born in 1893 and she was a prisoner of war. She lived to be a 100.

When I was in college and the first man landed on the moon in 1969 I visited her (she died in 1983) and I asked her what she thought about the man landing on the moon. She was a very smart lady, one of the first Comanche ladies to go to school, and she said the White Man can sure lie. She didn’t believe it. Our legend says a buffalo butted

a witch woman up there and she got stuck. We can see her to this day.

**TN: Are you proud of your family for keeping their traditions and way of life?**

I am very proud of our family. There were eight of us. I’m the second oldest and we all finished high school and went to college. I thank my parents for that. Our dad coached us along in everything we did in this world.

**TN: What advice would you give to the generations coming up?**

Try to keep your traditions. Keep hold of what is really important. I’ve work with the tribal office and I’ve noticed in politics you have feuding cliques, but when they danced it was altogether. It seemed to be unique that in the arena they could all dance together.

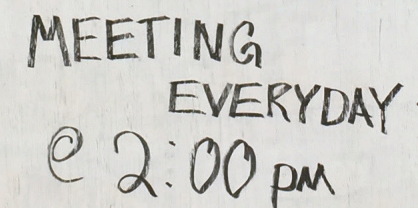
**In Standing Rock you see so many tribes coming together along with other peoples, how do you feel about that?**

It’s tremendous in this day and this time. I’ve seen a lot of changes in my lifetime. Every time I worry we might lose our songs or our dances, every year there are more people. Our little children are still coming up to the arena and learning our ways. One thing I learned from a young child is that the movies that portrayed our people as heathens never saw that with the Comanche people have a great love for each other and they treat each other well. They have a respect for the Earth and they come together as families and as people to share and protect those values. Taking care of each other and the only home we humans have is what Standing Rock is really all about for me.





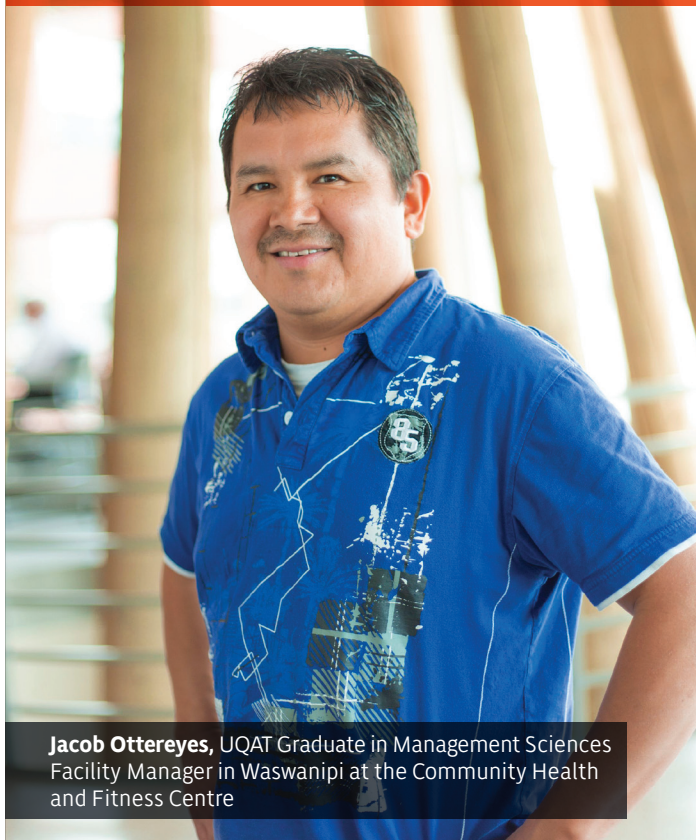
Cree School Board





**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF  
OPTIMIZING YOUR MANAGEMENT SKILLS?**

**ARE YOU PLANNING ON  
GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?**



**Jacob Ottereyes**, UQAT Graduate in Management Sciences  
Facility Manager in Waswanipi at the Community Health  
and Fitness Centre

## UQAT, FIRST PEOPLES PAVILION

### CERTIFICATES STARTING IN FALL 2017

/ HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT  
/ MANAGEMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Possibility of graduating from a bachelor degree by  
cumulating multiple certificates in management sciences.

Other programs are available in other domains, on  
campus or in community, providing a sufficient number  
of admissible candidates. In French or in English!

**ADMISSION DEADLINE : March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**CONTACT US**  
Toll free: 1 866 891-UQAT ext. 6296  
spp-fps@uqat.ca



uqat.ca/firstpeoples

**UQAT**  
CAMPUS DE VAL-D'OR

uqat.ca

Top left: Minister of Indigenous Affairs, Carolyn Bennett; Bottom left:  
NDP MP and Indigenous affairs critic, Charlie Angus



**It's been  
a year  
since Justin  
Trudeau and his  
Liberals swept to  
power, winning a  
majority govern-  
ment with their  
"Real change"  
campaign and  
promising to  
establish a true  
"nation to nation  
relationship"  
with Canada's  
Indigenous.**

It's been a year since Justin Trudeau and his Liberals swept to power, winning a majority government with their "Real Change" campaign and promising to establish a true "nation-to-nation relationship" with Canada's Indigenous peoples. While the Liberals have honoured a few of their promises, recent events have First Nations communities and leaders scratching their heads over the true agenda of the Trudeau government on the environment, the well-being of First Nations children and Indigenous relations as a whole.

The Liberal commitments toward First Nations communities couldn't have been clearer.

At the 2015 Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Assembly in Montreal, Trudeau declared that if he was elected he would ensure the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP), a declaration that asserts Indigenous rights in self-governance and determination.

"We intend nothing less than to adopt and implement the declaration in accordance with the Canadian Constitution," said Minister of Indigenous Affairs Carolyn Bennett in May 2016, addressing the UN

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York City following the Liberal victory

A month later, however, Liberal Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould suddenly announced that adopting UNDRIP into Canadian law was "unworkable". She even went so far as to label it a "political distraction to undertaking the hard work required to implement it back home in communities."

While Canada's objector status to UNDRIP has been removed, the Liberal government completed its first about face when they refused to hold themselves to the UNDRIP standard in their dealings with First Nations.

This trend has continued.

In August, Fisheries and Oceans Canada issued construction permits for the Site C Dam on the Peace River in British Columbia, an \$8.8 billion project opposed by environmental activists and the nearby Prophet River and West Moberly First Nations.

As Prophet River and West Moberly leaders were in court fighting for their treaty rights,

Trudeau was simultaneously green lighting the project. The two communities will see thousands of acres of their territory flooded by the dam should construction go ahead as planned.

Responding to the approval of Site C in the Toronto Star, AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde was categorical. "Proceeding with this project without proper consultation and the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations is neither consistent with Canada's own constitution nor Canada's human rights obligations under the declaration and elsewhere," he said.

The unexpected Liberal flip-flops on the environment echo the policies of the decade-long Conservative government of Stephen Harper, especially where fossil fuel development is concerned.

When Trudeau approved the Pacific Northwest LNG project, a liquefied natural gas terminal and export facility planned for BC's Lelu Island at Prince Rupert in late September, Haida Nation leaders were outraged. Worth

\$36 billion, the Northwest LNG project poses a threat to Treaty 8 hunting, trapping and fishing rights and endangers the Skeena salmon run, the second largest in the country.

While Trudeau sports a Haida raven tattoo on his shoulder that had the support of community leaders in his early days at the helm of the Liberal Party, his actions with the Site C dam and the Northwest LNG terminal have drastically changed their opinion.

"In accepting a tattoo, you commit to the values and laws that govern our nation," said Haida artist Robert Davidson, the man responsible for the design appropriated by Trudeau. "Maybe Trudeau really needs to understand what that tattoo signifies to the Haida. In one breath we're all excited...then all of a sudden, how do we react to what he's doing, to the decisions he's making?"

The most recent decision made by Ottawa was to approve the \$1.3 billion expansion of a western natural gas pipeline aimed to boost the faltering

Alberta oil industry. Many observers believe the Liberal government is preparing to approve the highly controversial Kinder Morgan pipeline (which would transport Alberta bitumen to a Vancouver port) as well as Energy East, which would do the same across six provinces to a New Brunswick facility.

During the last year's election campaign, Trudeau dominated social media with his good looks and sunny personality. While it's hard to fault someone for not being able to accomplish everything they promised in their first year in office, it's hard to accept that in many cases the Liberal government has gone and done the opposite of what they committed to do. On the plus side, we do finally have a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Thanks to the trusty Trudeau metre (www.trudeau metre.ca) we have a clear picture of the 18 major promises made to Indigenous peoples: 3 promises delivered, 5 promises in progress, 6 promises not yet started and

# Broken Promises

Trudeau's relationship with First Nations **starting to sour**

by Joshua Grant





MY LIFE, MY PASSIONS,  
MY WORK!




**BENJAMIN LEGAULT / ROUYN-NORANDA / FILTRATION OPERATOR  
HOCKEY PLAYER, ALWAYS A TEAM PLAYER, BOTH AT WORK AND AT PLAY  
VOCATIONAL DIPLOMA IN ORE PROCESSING MACHINERY OPERATION**

I’ve been working at Éléonore for two years now, and I’m really happy. For a guy like me, it’s perfect! I get to travel and go to shows and festivals. I stay in shape, I move a lot, and I even have time to play hockey!

— Benjamin

**JOIN OUR POOL OF CANDIDATES FOR THESE POSITIONS:**

ELECTRICIAN – SURFACE SERVICES / **ELE00002162**  
MINE ELECTRICIAN / **ELE00002163**  
LONG HOLE DRILLER / **ELE00002164**  
FIXED EQUIPMENT MECHANIC – PROCESS / **ELE00002165**  
FIXED EQUIPMENT MECHANIC – MINE / **ELE00002166**  
MOBILE EQUIPMENT MECHANIC – MINE / **ELE00002167**  
DEVELOPMENT MINER / **ELE00002168**  
SCOOP OPERATOR / **ELE00002169**  
MACHINE OPERATOR, MINERAL AND METAL PROCESSING / **ELE00002170**  
MINE SURVEY TECHNICIAN / **ELE00002171**



**GOLDCORP**  
**ÉLÉONORE**

[GOLDCORP/CARRIERES.COM](http://GOLDCORP/CARRIERES.COM)



4 promises broken. Unfortunately it’s the broken promises that are the most telling: no UNDRIP, no \$50 million for the post-secondary student support program and the 2% funding cap on First Nations programs still in place.

By choosing to allocate \$2.6 billion to First Nations education for Kindergarten to Grade 12 over five fiscal years, the Liberal government’s financial commitments to provide Native children the same education opportunities as the rest of Canada is little more than what was offered by the Conservatives.

NDP MP and Indigenous affairs critic Charlie Angus believes the Trudeau government is ignoring the human rights of First Nations people.

“I’m really shocked,” he said. “I expected that we would see serious movement, serious action. The first promise that [the Liberals] made in the election was \$2.6 billion in funding to First Nations children. And then they’ve walked away from that

promise – they’re stretching it out over five years. It’s the same amount that Harper had promised.”

The NDP introduced a motion demanding the Liberals come into compliance with a human rights tribunal ruling issued last January, calling on the government to immediately boost the budget for First Nations child welfare by \$155 million. The original ruling stated the federal government has consistently failed to provide services to First Nations children comparable to those offered by the provincial system and the tribunal has already issued the Liberals two compliance orders since.

“Saying there doesn’t need to be any compliance with the human rights tribunal, I really don’t know what’s driving their agenda,” said Angus. “They seem to think that if they have a consultation and put a survey online they’re doing their job. It’s a huge red flag in terms of this government walking away from that promise they

made to establish a new nation-to-nation relationship.”

Angus didn’t expect wholesale change overnight. “But there are a few incidents that stand out as being very cynical,” he said. “We have the justice minister in court right now fighting a compensation case that was awarded to a residential school survivor of a childhood rape at Spanish residential. That sends this real clear signal that they’re following the same attitude that the previous government had – that they will fight Indigenous rights in court, tooth and nail.”

Angus, like many others, says the image Trudeau projected during the election campaign and the reality of his government’s policies one year into power do not match up.

“They only want a nation-to-nation relationship when it’s convenient to them,” Angus concluded.

The office of Prime Minister Trudeau did not respond to numerous requests for comment on these issues.





Last month's opening of Quebec's first diamond mine launched a new era of resource development in the north, providing economic stimulus and ecological guarantees for the Eeyou Istchee.

Located just north of the Otish Mountains about 320 kilometres from Mistissini in the M11 trapline territory, the Renard Mine is expected to produce an average of 1.8 million carats in raw gemstones a year over its 14-year lifespan – about 2 per cent of global diamond

production. At current values, the annual output will be worth about \$375 million.

Governed by the 2012 Mecheshoo Agreement negotiated between the Stornoway mining company and Eeyou Istchee leaders, the Renard Mine operations will provide between 450 and 525 full-time jobs, one-quarry, the Renard Mine is expected to produce an average of 1.8 million carats in raw gemstones a year over its 14-year lifespan – about 2 per cent of global diamond

The agreement also creates special training

programs “intended to facilitate the successful recruitment of Crees, their advancement and retention in all business units at the Renard Diamond Mine.”

In addition, suppliers in the Mistissini, Chibougamau and Chapais areas have already seen close to \$100 million a year in business with the extension of Route 167 from Mistissini and the construction of the Renard Mine facilities.

The Mecheshoo Agreement also establishes Renard Mine

working committees with Grand Council, Mistissini and Stornoway representation to oversee the agreement as well as employment and training opportunities and environmental impacts.

The company flew in suppliers, investors, politicians and media October 19 for the official opening. Landing at the mine's Clarence and Abel Swallow Airport, named for two former M11 tallymen, visitors were bused about 8 km down the final stretch of

Route 167/Renard Mine Rd. to the mine site.

Stornoway chief operating officer Patrick Godin stopped the media bus to point out that the entire mine site of about 300 hectares was surrounded by a large ditch designed to collect any runoff from the site and redirect it to the on-site water treatment plant for monitoring and treatment.

He also noted the company decided to build its own liquefied natural gas power plant, cutting projected greenhouse gas production

by 43% and saving the company \$10 million a year on fuel costs over a traditional diesel-generation plant.

### Not your average jewel case

Visitors enter the site via the worker accommodation complex, a sprawling array of offices, sleeping areas and a well-stocked cafeteria designed to serve hundreds of workers 24 hours a day. Our bags, jackets and belongings were run through porta-

Continued on page 31...



## Quebec's first diamond mine is in Eeyou Istchee

by Peter Wheeland

Photos provided by Stornoway

# NORTHERN

# DEVELOPMENTS

Photo by Xavier Kataquapit



## IBA signed by four First Nations and Tahoe Resources

by Xavier Kataquapit

The Wabun Tribal Council First Nations of Matachewan, Mattagami and Flying Post joined with Wahgoshig to sign an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) with Tahoe Resources. The signing ceremony, which took place in Timmins, Ontario on October 27, is the result of nearly six years of negotiations

that was started with Lakeshore Gold before it merged into Tahoe in April 2016.

Chief Walter Naveau (Mattagami), Chief Murray Ray (Flying Post) and Chief Alex “Sonny” Batisse (Matachewan) spoke to those in attendance about the importance of following through on negotiations with the result of an IBA,

thanking their members and councils for the guidance and support in moving ahead with negotiations.

“I am here today to join in with others to sign this agreement for the benefit of the future for our children and communities. I do this with the hope that our work together will give our future generations

prosperity and that they will have what the rest of Canada enjoys in regards to employment, education and a good life,” commented Naveau.

Ron Clayton, President and Chief Executive Officer and Director of Tahoe Resources, emphasized the positive in his remarks.

“We believe the agreement is an achievement mounted on the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. It will involve long-term benefits, business opportunities, employment and training as well as education for the First Nations,” Clayton said.

Shawn Batisse, an Ontario Assistant

Deputy Minister responsible for negotiations at the Ministry Of Indigenous Relations And Reconciliation, worked on negotiating the agreement over the years with the chiefs.

“I want to thank Tahoe Resources for improving this agreement,” said Batisse. “This is one of the better agreements we have

signed over the years and our First Nations can be proud of what they have achieved here today. I am grateful to be invited today to celebrate all of the hard work we had done over the years to arrive at this agreement. This agreement is a great indication of what reconciliation can and should be all about.”





**ᐃᓄ/ᐃᓕᑦ ᑦᓴᓴᑦ**  
**Cree Nation Government**  
**Gouvernement de la Nation Crie**

[illegible]

Once the Renard Mine ore is excavated, it's loaded onto huge trucks and transported to an on-site processing plant

The Mecheshoo Agreement also "ensures that the Crees will receive financial benefits through different payment mechanisms and participation in the profitability of the mine," according to the Grand Council news release issued for the signing.





# Hydlo and FRIENDS Online

TO BE WON:  
— AN —  
**iPad  
Air**



CONTEST  
**Pick your  
favorite video  
and get a  
chance to win  
an iPad Air**

🔧 *Marking the end of the cisco follow-up*



Sanders Weistche, Tallyman  
Trapline N2, Waskaganish



Feast  
Waskaganish, June 2015

🔧 *Measuring the use of the large spawning  
ground near Sarcelle powerhouse*



Jimmy Kakabat  
Field worker, Wemindji



Garry Salt  
Lab technician, Waskaganish

Enter now at [www.hydloandfriends.com](http://www.hydloandfriends.com)

The contest runs from September 30, 2016, through November 30, 2016, and is open to members of the Cree nation living in one of the Native communities of Eeyou Istchee who are at least 18 years of age. Limit of one entry per person per day. The winner will be announced at 8:00 a.m. on December 14, 2016, during the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS.



## Woodwalker

by Sonny Orr



**T**he chainsaws ripped through the dry pines and the axes chopped in beat. We were cutting firewood and getting sweaty. At a hundred bucks a cord the sweat was worth it.

I had the job of splitting the wood as an axe was my only investment in this venture. The guys who had chainsaws felled the trees and cut them up into 18-inch lengths. It was fairly cold day in late March and the sap was deep down in the roots for the winter, making the extra dry trees easy to cut and split. This went on for several hours until the cords of wood made the trip worthwhile. We were making money and muscles at the same time, unlike most workout places where you have to pay to get fit.

After a while, the chainsaws stopped buzzing and it was time to get the trail made and load up the high-octane dry wood. With hoarfrost forming on our damp hats, a thermos of tea is produced to quench our thirst and to keep our body warm. The last wood piled up and readied for hauling, we venture back to the cabin nestled in a tiny cove of pines. Built in the time-honoured Hudson Bay fashion, the cabin had been there nearly 20 years and was made from the logs that abounded nearby. Those logs were chopped down by hand with no chainsaw in those days and hauled out

by foot back to the cabin's future site. In those days, being fit was normal.

After our ritual tea and snack, we head back to town with our bounty and deliver the wood before going home to pass out from a long day harvesting the energy to heat our homes. Many people have wood stoves in their homes, which come in handy in reducing the hydro bill and especially for those frequent power failures.

Soon, we had filled our orders and went back again to gather more wood for the people who didn't have the time to do it themselves or for those who couldn't get around as easily. The next morning, refreshing our machines with gas and oil, we repeat the previous day, thanking the cold snap for easy hauling and steady customers. Yep, we were woodsmen. Admirably, we were getting buff at the same time and our hard work started getting easier and our muscles ached less. We felt good about it.

Then a plan came together to harvest more wood to fund a trip and head north to Whapmagoostui by skidoo. The following month went by as we gathered our resources to make an expedition combined with hunting and fishing to make the trip more worthwhile. We planned the journey carefully, and readied ourselves to take off.

Upon arrival at our starting point, we noticed that one of the snowmobiles had disappeared but we decided to throw redundancy out the window and make the trip with the two remain-

ing skidoos. The spring warmth and good weather had melted the snow into a smooth lunar landscape by the time we left around midnight. We drove over the bumpy trails etched onto the ice and 45 minutes later reached Seal River. We stopped once to shoot at ptarmigan that were everywhere on the land trails, and then sped off into the night. The trip was high-speed smooth with barely any bumps and the moon made everything super bright and clear.

We slept a night in a sabtuan and headed northeast up the Hudson Bay coast at the same speed as the night before, only to dart onto the land to shoot more ptarmigan. After reaching Great Whale River and spending a few nights, we headed back home,

this time in dense fog. Amazingly, we turned at just the right time and found the stash of gas, tent and stove.

We actually didn't know where we were when chance made its choice. We then realized that we didn't

have a chimney, but we heated up stones and rocks until they were white hot and tossed them into the stove. The stove stayed hot for the next night and full day. Not too much chopping involved, we noted.

The following days, hunting caribou and chasing off wolves, we finally headed home from the Cape Jones area and harvested the ptarmigan until we ran out of ammunition. It was a great way to stay in shape. The only admission charge? Sweat.

At a hundred  
bucks a cord  
**the sweat  
was worth it.**



# First Nation Renaissance

*Under the Northern Sky*

by Xavier Kataquapit



**A** lot was happening for Native creativity during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The decade started off with music from the Innu Nation in Quebec when Kashtin burst onto the music scene with their debut album of the same name. The group led by Claude McKenzie and Florent Vollant immediately resonated with the James Bay Cree as many of their songs were sung in Innu, which is similar to our own Cree. I can remember everyone singing along to the refrain of "Chee-na-no", a phrase we recognized immediately as "all of us". To my people the northern remote Cree, it suddenly felt to us like a worldwide popular Native group was singing for all of us.

In southern Ontario, an Aboriginal writer Tomson Highway saw his play "Dry Lips Oughta Move To Kapuskasing" open in 1989 at the Theatre Passe-Muraille in Toronto. In 1991, the production was relocated to the Royal Alexandra Theatre, where it became the first work of Aboriginal theatre on that prestigious stage. The production included the work of Highway's brother Rene, an actor, dancer and choreographer. The play was a huge hit and brought to life so many wonderful characters.

I was in high school at the time and I can remember seeing and hearing all the news and headlines from the news networks and newspapers that highlighted this new play about Aboriginal people. We studied this creative work in my English class devoted to Aboriginal content. It was a couple of years later that I had a chance to see the actual production when a travelling group of Aboriginal performers known as De-ba-jeh-mu-jig, from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island, performed it in Timmins, Ontario. The story was fun, tragic and familiar for us Native students. It showed the world a comic view of our lives with all its ups and downs and highlighted how we were able to survive through humour. I felt proud to know that someone out there was bringing our people's story to the forefront in a more positive way.

Writers such as Tomson Highway helped meet a need for Aboriginal content in education. It was at this time that I began to take part in courses and programs that were Native-based. I was happy to discover that "Dry Lips" was actually the second major play produced by Highway. "Rez Sisters" was his first, and highlighted seven

Aboriginal women, and "Dry Lips" was a companion piece that featured seven Aboriginal men.

The blockbuster movie "Dances With Wolves", starring Kevin Costner and an amazing performance by Graham Greene of Six Nations, was released in 1990. Sitting in the theatre in Timmins, surrounded by other First Nation students, my eyes were glued to the silver screen. We laughed, applauded and celebrated the fact that this Hollywood movie was promoting Aboriginal people. We left the theatre that night with a bounce of pride in our steps and respect and awe for the Native performances of Graham Greene, Floyd Red Crow Westerman, Tantoo Cardinal, Jimmy Herman, Rodney A. Grant and Wes Studi.

Up in northern Canada and around James Bay, Native musicians were making history too by singing songs in Cree that talked about our people, culture and traditions. Musicians like Lawrence Martin, Archie Cheechoo, Ron Kataquapit, John Rodrique, The Nakogee Band and Vern Cheechoo did a lot to instill pride in Native people.

I am hoping that there is another renaissance in creativity soon. We need it.

**REACH OVER  
100,000 CUSTOMERS  
EVERY MONTH**

Advertise in the **Nation Magazine**

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Danielle Valade**  
Tel: (514) 272-3077  
Email: [ads@nationnews.ca](mailto:ads@nationnews.ca)  
[www.nationnews.ca](http://www.nationnews.ca)



## The Cree Mineral Exploration Board

Our purposes are:

1. Assist the Crees in accessing mineral exploration opportunities.
2. Facilitate the development of mineral exploration enterprises with Cree entrepreneurship.
3. Help encourage the Crees and Cree enterprises benefit from Quebec's regular funding programs as well as other provincial assistance allocated to mineral exploration activities.
4. Act as main intermediary between offers and demands of services made to Cree enterprises in matters relating to mineral exploration.



16 Beaver Road, P.O. 210, Wemindji, QC J0M 1L0 T: 819-978-0264 ext. 327 F: 819-978-3834 [cmeb.org](http://cmeb.org)



# Mine**RENARD**Mine



## OUVERTURE OPENING 19 OCT 2016

*Thank you, Merci, Meegwetch!*



[www.stornowaydiamonds.com](http://www.stornowaydiamonds.com)





***airCreebec***

**Your Northern Airline of choice!**

We offer discounted rates and seat sales.\*



For reservations, charters or information

Call toll-free: **1-800-567-6567**

Website: **[www.aircreebec.ca](http://www.aircreebec.ca)**

\*certain conditions apply to seat sales